

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) A mask pad device for a breathing mask comprising a receiving opening which in the position of application of the breathing mask coincides at least with the nose and/or mouth opening region of a user of the mask, a side wall to connect to a mask shell of the mask, and a sealing lip extending from the side wall and which is formed from an elastomer material and which extends around the receiving opening and which in the application position fits on the surface of the face of the user of the mask, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least one zone of thickened cross-section is provided in the mask pad and that the mask pad material of said zone of thickened cross-section is foamed in such a way that in the region of the zone of thickened cross-section the mask pad forms a foam cushion.

26. (Currently Amended) A mask pad device for a breathing mask comprising a receiving opening which in the position of application of the breathing mask coincides at least with the nose and/or mouth opening region of a user of the mask, a side wall to connect to a mask shell of the mask, and a sealing lip extending from the side wall and which is formed from an elastomer material and which extends around the receiving opening and which in the application position fits on the surface of the face of the user of the mask, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least one zone of thickened cross-section is provided in the inner region of the mask pad and that the mask pad material of said zone of thickened cross-section has gel-like material properties, and wherein the zone of thickened cross-section includes a gel-like crosslinked elastomer body inserted into a fixing structure provided in the internal space of the mask pad device.

27. (Currently Amended) A mask pad device according to claim 26 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the gel-like crosslinked body thereof is of a horseshoe-like configuration and in the application position extends over the bridge of the nose of the user of the mask.

28. (Currently Amended) A mask pad device according to claim 26 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the gel-like crosslinked body thereof is of a ring-like configuration, following the sealing lip, extending around a mouth and/or nose opening.

29. (Currently Amended) A mask pad device for a breathing mask comprising a receiving opening which in the position of application of the breathing mask coincides at least with the nose and/or mouth opening region of a user of the mask, a side wall to connect to a mask shell of the mask, and a sealing lip extending from the side wall and which is formed from an elastomer material and which extends around the receiving opening and which in the application position fits on the surface of the face of the user of the mask, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein provided in the mask pad is at least one closed receiving pocket portion and provided in said receiving pocket portion is a cushion body comprising a gel material, and wherein the configuration of the pocket portion is established such that the sealing lip device defines a skin contact zone (GS1) in which the sealing lip device is urged against the surface of the face by the cushion body.

30. (Currently Amended) A mask pad device according to claim 29 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cushion body is subdivided into segments.

31. (Original) A forehead pad for a breathing mask comprising a forehead pad base body which is made from an elastomer material and has a coupling portion for fixing the forehead pad to a forehead support device and a stem portion for radially yieldingly mounting a forehead contact portion provided for bearing against a forehead surface, wherein the forehead pad has a zone of thickened cross-section and in said zone is provided with a gel or foam material.

Claims 32-44. Canceled.

45. (Previously Presented) A mask pad for a mask for a breathing device for treating a patient, said mask pad comprising:

a side wall to connect to a mask shell of the mask; and

a sealing lip to sealingly engage with a patient, said sealing lip extending from the side wall, wherein the mask pad has a varying Shore hardness through its cross section, and at least a first region of the mask pad having a higher Shore hardness than other regions of the mask pad, and wherein the first region is proximal the mask shell when the mask pad is connected to the mask.

46. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 45, wherein the regions are arranged in layers.

47. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 46, wherein there are two regions.

48. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 45, wherein the side wall includes a closed pocket and a gel inside the pocket.

49. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 45, further comprising a gel-like substance provided to the side wall and/or the sealing lip.

50. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 45, wherein the side wall and/or sealing lip comprise an elastomer compound material.

51. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 45, wherein the side wall and the sealing lip are formed as a one piece unit.

52. (Previously Presented) A mask pad device for a breathing mask, the mask pad comprising:

a receiving opening which in the position of application of the breathing mask coincides at least with the nose and/or mouth opening region of a user of the mask;

a side wall having a first end having an edge to attach to a shell of the breathing mask and a second end oriented towards a user's face in the application position;

the side wall having at least one closed pocket portion that includes a gel material filled therein, the side wall with the gel-filled pocket portion having an upper portion positioned adjacent the second end so as to contact the user's face in the application position; and

a sealing lip of an elastomer material supported by and extending radially inward from the side wall, the sealing lip and the extending at least partly around the receiving opening and which in the application position contacts a user's face,

wherein a first skin contact zone area of the sealing lip device is different than a second skin contact zone area of the upper portion of the gel-filled pocket portion.

53. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 52, wherein the first skin contact zone area is less than the second skin contact zone area.

54. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 52, wherein a proportion of the first skin contact zone area relative to the second skin contact zone area is in a range of between 18-54%.

55. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 52, wherein a proportion of the second skin contact zone area relative to the first skin contact zone area is in the range of between 46-82%.

56. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 52, wherein the pocket portion extends around the upper lip and cheek regions of the user in use, with a cut out portion in the bridge region of the mask pad where the pocket portion and gel material is not included.

57. (Previously Presented) A mask pad device for a breathing mask, the mask pad comprising:

a receiving opening which in the position of application of the breathing mask coincides at least with the nose and/or mouth opening region of a user of the mask;

a side wall having a first end to attach to a shell of the breathing mask and a second end oriented towards a user's face in the application position;

the side wall having at least one closed pocket portion that includes a gel material filled therein; and

a sealing lip of an elastomer material supported by and extending radially inward from the side wall, the sealing lip and the extending at least partly around the receiving opening and which in the application position contacts a user's face,

wherein the pocket portion extends around the upper lip and cheek regions of the user in use, with a cut out portion in the bridge region of the mask pad where the pocket portion and gel material is not included such that the sealing lip is not supported by the gel material in the bridge region.

58. (Previously Presented) A mask pad according to claim 57, wherein the side wall with the gel-filled pocket portion includes an upper portion positioned at the second end so as to contact the user's face in the application position, such that the upper portion of the side wall has a larger proportion of contact with the user's face as compared to the sealing lip.

59. (Previously Presented) A mask assembly comprising:
a hard shell member; and
a mask pad according to claim 57.

60. (Previously Presented) A mask according to claim 59, further comprising a forehead support including a least one gel-filled pad.

61. (New) A mask pad device according to claim 26, further comprising a bellows section to resiliently suspend the zone of thickened cross section.

62. (New) mask pad device according to claim 29, further comprising a bellows section to resiliently suspend the cushion body of gel material.

63. (New) A mask pad according to claim 45, further comprising a bellows section to resiliently suspend the sealing lip.

64. (New and Withdrawn) A mask pad according to claim 52, further comprising a bellows section to resiliently suspend the closed pocket portion that includes the gel material.

65. (New and Withdrawn) A mask pad according to claim 57, further comprising a bellows section to resiliently suspend the closed pocket portion.